

In the specification:

Please delete the first sentence of the specification and substitute the following sentence therefor:

—This is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

A1
08/839,974 filed on April 24, 1997, which application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/651,977 filed on May 21, 1996. —

Page 12, line 1, change "one" to --on--.

Page 13, line 12, insert --a package-- before "110".

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2 and 3.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

C2
5 4. (Amended) A method for attaching a zipper strip transversely on a sheet of thermoplastic sheet material during the production of plastic bags or packages having transverse zippers on a form-fill-and-seal machine, said sheet being advanced in amounts equal in length to that of the bags or packages being manufactured, a length of zipper strip being attached each time said sheet is brought to rest, said method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a zipper strip having interlocked male and female interlocking profiles, one of said male and female interlocking profiles having a web wider than that of the other on at least

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15 one of two lateral side thereof, the greater width of the wider web being at least one flange running therealong;

disposing a length of said zipper strip transversely upon said sheet of thermoplastic sheet material, said one of said male and female interlocking profiles having said wider web being in contact with said sheet [and said at least one flange being oriented in the direction of the motion of said sheet]; and sealing said at least one flange onto said sheet of thermoplastic material without sealing said webs of said male and female interlocking profiles to each other.

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20 Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said at least one flange is oriented in the direction of the motion of said sheet.

12. (New) A method of making reclosable packages comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of thermoplastic sheet material and advancing said thermoplastic sheet material in amounts equal in length to that of said packages;

providing a zipper strip having interlocked male and female interlocking profiles, one of said male and female interlocking profiles having a web wider than that of the other on at least one of two lateral side thereof, the greater width of the wider web being at least one flange running therealong;

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disposing a length of said zipper strip transversely upon said sheet of thermoplastic sheet material, said one of said male and female interlocking profiles having said wider web being in contact with said sheet and being oriented in the direction of the motion of said sheet;

A3 15 sealing said at least one flange to said sheet of thermoplastic material;

forming a package; and

thereafter sealing said webs of said male and female 20 interlocking profiles to said package without sealing said webs to each other.

13. (New) A method of making reclosable packages comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of thermoplastic sheet material having two lateral edges and advancing said thermoplastic sheet material in amounts equal in length to that of said packages;

providing a zipper strip having interlocked male and female interlocking profiles, one of said male and female interlocking profiles having a web wider than that of the other on at least one of two lateral side thereof, the greater width of the wider 10 web being at least one flange running therealong;

disposing a length of said zipper strip transversely upon said sheet of thermoplastic sheet material, said one of said male and female interlocking profiles having said wider web being in contact with said sheet and being oriented in the direction of

15 the motion of said sheet;

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15 sealing said at least one flange to said sheet of thermoplastic sheet material;

folding said thermoplastic sheet material so as to bring said lateral edges together;

16 sealing said lateral edges together to form a tube;

sealing said tube to said length of zipper strip without sealing said webs of said male and female interlocking profiles to each other; and

cutting said package to remove a completed package from said

25 tube.

July 1
14. (New) A reclosable package comprising:

a first wall and a second wall opposite said first wall;

5 a zipper strip for selectively opening and closing said package, said zipper strip comprising a male interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said first wall and a female interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said second wall;

said male interlocking profile having a male interlocking member and a male web integral therewith;

10 said female interlocking profile having a female interlocking member and a female web integral therewith, said male interlocking member being engageable within said female interlocking member to join said male and female interlocking profiles together;

15 wherein one of said male and female webs is wider than the
other of said male and female webs in at least one of two
directions from said male and female interlocking members, the
greater width of the wider of said male and female webs being at
least one flange extending widthwise beyond the other of said
male and female webs;

A3 20 wherein said at least one flange is sealed to one of said
package walls at a first seal area; and

wherein the other interlocking profile is sealed to the
other package wall at a second seal area spaced apart from said
first seal area along the width of said zipper strip.

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15. (New) A reclosable package according to claim 14 wherein
said at least one flange is sealed to only one of said package
walls.

16. (New) A reclosable package according to claim 15 wherein
a portion of the interlocking profile having said wider web which
is not said at least one flange is separately sealed to the same
package wall as said at least one flange.